STATE of the Preſent Funds of the CHARITY WORK-HOUSE of the City of EDINBURGH;

AND

PROPOSALS for applying to the Legiſlature for an Act of Parliament, for eſtabliſhing a more equal and certain Fund for the Maintenance and Support of the Begging Poor, and Out-Penſioners of the ſaid City.

I. THAT, in the large Work-houſe erected ſome Years ago upon the charitable Contribution of the Inhabitants, and other Donations, above Five hundred poor Perſons are maintained; moſt of them employed in uſeful Labour, and the Boys and Girls carefully educated, and put out to Service, or bound to Manufacturers; and beſides theſe, there are many Out-penſioners, who have caſual Supplies when ſick, or laid aſide from Work for a little Time, with others, whoſe needy Circumſtances entitles them to Support, altho' their former Rank and Station would make it indecent to lodge them under the ſame Roof with the Begging Poor.

II. From an Inſpection of the Books, it appears, that the Expence of this Houſe, at a Medium for the firſt four Years, amounted to 2800 *l. Sterling* yearly, altho' conducted in the moſt frugal Manner, by the Direction of Ninety-ſix Managers, elected out of all the different Societies in Town.

III. That, in Time coming, the annual Expence, over and above the Profits of Labour, cannot be computed at a lower Sum than 2200 *l.* a Year.

IV. That the chief Support of the Houſe aroſe from the Collections at the Church-doors, which, at a Medium for twenty Years preceeding the 1740, amounted to a Trifle above 1200 *l.* a Year: But of late this Fund has greatly decayed, notwithſtanding the Benefit of being delivered from the Nuſance and Clamour of the Begging Poor, and the Fund in its ſelf was always precarious and uncertain.

V. A Fund, ariſing from Collections made in this Faſhion, is extremely unequal, ſeeing thoſe, who formerly attended Nonjuring Meeting-houſes, and others who reſort to no Place of publick Worſhip, are, in a Manner, totally exempted.

VI. The other ordinary Funds for the Poor does not exceed 600 *l.* a Year, at a Medium, taking in what of late has ariſen from Allotments made to the Poor by the Managers of the Ladies Aſſembly, as well as the Funds collected by the Kirk-Treaſurer.

VII. In order to procure a certain and equal Fund for the Maintenance of the Poor, 'tis propoſed, That the Collections at the Church-doors ſhould be laid aſide, and that the Legiſlature ſhould impoſe an annual Rate upon the Inhabitants, without Diſtinction, not exceeding the Sum of 1800 *l. Sterling* a Year, to be levied from the Occupiers or Poſſeſſors of Tenements, Houſes or Shops within the Royalty, in proportion to their reſpective valued Rents, and that without any Exception or Abatement to the Magiſtrates, Miniſters, Profeſſors in the Univerſity, Stent-maſters, or any others; and ſhould authorize Truſtees for putting the ſaid Act in Execution, with Power to them to name Aſſeſſors for proportioning, and a Collector for levying the ſaid annual Rate; and that the ſame ſhould be ſubject to no Burden, except to a Sum, not exceeding 50 *l.* for the total Expence of levying the ſaid annual Rate, by way of Collector's Salary, Clerks Fees, Office-Rent, and other Incidents, and with a further Sum, not exceeding 100 *l.* for the Support of Criminals confined, and kept at hard Labour, in the large Fabrick or Houſe of Correction newly erected; whence it follows, that the Reſidue being 1650 *l.* joined with the ordinary Revenue, amounting to 600 *l. Sterling*, only exceeds the above mentioned Sum of 2200 *l.* which, by the Calcul, has been found the Sum annually neceſſary for the Support of the Houſe, in the Triſle of 50 *l.* for making good Deficiencies; and further, that the above Rate ſhould be eſtabliſhed with the following Proviſo, That each Inhabitant ſhould be ſingly liable for their own Proportion, as annually fixed by the Stent-maſters; and that none ſhould be exempted from this Rate, only the Aſſeſſors ſhould be impowered to free any of the Inhabitants, who poſſeſs a Houſe below three Pounds *Sterling* of yearly Rent, provided ſuch Inhabitants or Poſſeſſors of Houſes have no Buſineſs, and are in poor Circumſtances.

VIII. That the Magiſtrates and Council ſhould be Truſtees, with Power to them annually, in the Month of *June*, to elect ſixteen Aſſeſſors or Stent-maſters for proportioning the ſaid annual Rate,

Rate, conform to the valued Rent of Tenements, Houſes and Shops within the ſaid City and Royalty, and to be levied from the ſeveral Inhabitants, except from ſuch whoſe Houſe Rents do not exceed 3 *l.* a Year, and are exempted by the Aſſeſſors, as having no Buſineſs, and being in poor Circumſtances; that the Stent-maſters finiſh their Report, on or before the 20th of *Auguſt*, that it may be timeouſly put into the Collector's Hand for levying the ſaid Rate, by two Terms Payments, counting the Year to commence from the 15th of *May*, when Houſes and Shops are commonly ſet or lett out in Leaſe, and the Payments to be made two Months at leaſt before the Elapſe of each half Year; that is, on or before the 15th of *September* for the firſt Term's Payment, and the 15th of *March* for the ſecond.

IX. That the College of Juſtice ſhall be empowered to name ſeven to meet with the Stent-Maſters, both at taking up the valued Rents of Houſes and Shops, and at encloſing to Proportion the ſaid annual Rate, whereof two to be named by the Lords of Seſſion, one by the Barons of Exchequer, two by the Faculty of Advocates, and two by the Writers to the Signet, and that due Notice be regularly given, by an Advertiſement on the Walls of the Inner Parliament Houſe, and Court of Exchequer, forty-eight Hours both before the Stent-Maſters begin to take up the valued Rents, and before they begin to proportion the ſaid annual Rate.

X. That the annual Rate may be levied in the like ſummary Manner as his Majeſty's Ceſs; that no Court of Law ſhall have Power to ſtop or ſuſpend the ſame, and the Collector, ten Days after each Term's Payment becomes due, empowered to levy the ſame by ſummary Diſtreſs and Sale of Goods, in virtue of a Warrant from any of the Magiſtrates, for ſatisfying each Perſon's Deficiency, and Expence of Sale.

XI. That the Magiſtrates and Council, as Truſtees, have Power in *June* annually to elect a Collector, and allow him, by way of Sallary, for himſelf and Clerk, Office-Rent, Books, and other Incidents, a Sum yearly, not exceeding 50 *l.* he always, before being admitted into the Office, finding Caution for his faithful Management to the extent of 1800 *l. Sterling*, and his Bond of Caution to be annually renewed. That, at the Sight of the Magiſtrates, the ſaid Collector ſhall pay to the Treaſurer of the Charity Work-houſe, his whole Term's Collections, except his own Sallary then due, each Term as follows; the firſt, on or before the laſt of *September*, and the ſecond, on or before the laſt Day of *March*.

XII. That the other Burden, not exceeding 100 *l.* to which the annual Rate is ſubjected for the Support of Criminals, ſhall be iſſued termly by the Managers of the Charity Work-houſe from their Treaſurer, in the Months of *September* and *March*, upon Application to the Magiſtrates, whoſe Judgment what Part of that Sum is neceſſary, ſhall be the Rule from time to time to the Managers.

XIII. That from and after the Commencement of this Act, all former Taxations, or other Burdens on Houſes, within the City and Royalty for the Maintenance of the Poor, ſhall ceaſe and determine, as alſo the Collections at the Church Doors ſhall ceaſe and determine from and after the Time the firſt Term's Payment becomes due in virtue of this Act; but that, notwithſtanding, upon extraordinary Occaſions, ſuch as great Loſs ſuſtained by Fire, or uncommon Dearth, it ſhall and may be lawful for the Magiſtrates and Council, provided the ſame be approved of by the Lords of Seſſion, to appoint a Collection at the Church Doors, to be applied allenarly to the Purpoſes expreſt in their Act, as alſo, ſo often as the ſame ſhall be authoriſed by a Brief iſſued out of his Majeſty's Chancery, Collections at the Church Doors may be lawfully made.

XIV. The Managers of the Charity Work-houſe ſhould be annually appointed to make up an Eſtimate to be laid before the Magiſtrates, the ſecond *Monday* of *June*, of what Sums ſhall appear neceſſary for anſwering the Intention of this Act, for the then current Year to run, from the 15th of *May* preceding.

XV. That the ſaid Eſtimate, made by the Managers of the Charity Work-houſe, ſhall be laid before an extraordinary Committee of Thirteen Perſons, (whereof Two to be elected by the Magiſtrates, Two by the Managers of the Charity Work-houſe, Three by the Lords of Seſſion, Two by the Barons of Exchequer, Two by the Faculty of Advocates, and Two by the Writers to the Signet, of which Committee Seven ſhall be a Quorum) and whatever the Majority of the ſaid Committee, or their Quorum, ſhall judge a proper annual Rate for the then current Year, not exceeding the foreſaid Sum of 1800 *l.* ſhall be entered into a Book kept for that Purpoſe, and be ſigned by ſuch Preſes as they ſhall elect; an Extract whereof ſhall be the Rule to the Aſſeſſors or Stent-maſters, for proportioning the annual Rate to be levied for the Service of the then current Year.

XVI. That the ſaid extraordinary Committee ſhall be elected in *June*, annually, on or before the ſecond *Monday* of that Month, and ſhall be authoriſed and appointed to meet in the Council-houſe, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, on the 3d *Monday* of *June*, yearly, in order, after examining the Eſtimate made up by the Managers of the Charity Work-houſe, to fix the annual

Rate

Rate for the Year current; with this Proviſo, that, in caſe the ſaid Committee, or Quorum thereof, do not conveen at the Time and Place above mentioned, that the Eſtimate, or annual Rate, made up by the Managers of the Charity Work-houſe, not exceeding the Sum of 1800*l.* as aforeſaid, ſhall be the Rule to the Aſſeſſors or Stent-maſters for the Year then current. And the Magiſtrates and Council are to cauſe record, in a Book to be kept for that Purpoſe, the annual Rate of each current Year, and furniſh the Aſſeſſors with an Extract therefrom, under the Hand of the City Clerk, on or before the Day they conveen; which Extract ſhall be ſufficient Authority to the Aſſeſſors or Stent-maſters, for proportioning the ſaid annual Rate, upon the Inhabitants liable in Payment thereof.

XVII. To complete the ſalutary Intention of this Act, it is propoſed, that the Poor of the Pariſhes of the *Canongate*, *South* and *North Leith*, and *St. Cuthbert's*, ſhould be aſſumed into the Charity Work-houſe, upon Application from theſe Pariſhes.

XVIII. To gain that End, it is propoſed, that there ſhould be a Clauſe in the Act, authoriſing Truſtees to tranſact and agree with the Magiſtrates and Council of *Edinburgh* for ſuch Sums as ſhall be deemed reaſonable, for aſſuming their reſpective Poor; and that their Agreement, if approved of by a general Meeting of the Managers of the Poors-houſe, called for that Purpoſe, ſhould be deemed ſufficient for compleating the Tranſaction.

XIX. That the two Magiſtrates and Treaſurer of the *Canongate*, with four Perſons elected by the Kirk Seſſion, and ſix choſen by the Proprietors of Houſes, upon a Meeting previouſly called for that Purpoſe, by an Intimation from the Pulpit, ten free Days before ſuch Meeting, ſhould be Truſtees for the Pariſh of the *Canongate*.

XX. That in like manner, the two Baillies of *South Leith*, four choſen by the Kirk Seſſion, and ſix by the Proprietors of Houſes, at a Meeting after Intimation as aforeſaid, ſhould be Truſtees for the Pariſh of *South Leith*.

XXI. That the Baillie of *North Leith*, four choſen by the Kirk Seſſion, four by the Proprietors of Houſes, at a Meeting called for that Purpoſe, by Intimation from the Pulpit as above mentioned, together with ſuch of the Landward Heretors, whoſe valued Rents amount to 100*l. Scots* or upwards, ſhould be Truſtees for the Pariſh of *North Leith*.

XXII. That the two Baillies of *Potter-row* and *Portsburgh*, ſix Perſons elected by the Kirk Seſſion, together with ſuch of the Landward Heretors, whoſe valued Rents amount to 200*l. Scots* or upwards, ſhould be Truſtees for the Pariſh of St. *Cuthberts*.

XXIII. That the Truſtees of the ſaid Pariſhes be ſummoned to all publick Meetings, to be by them held, from the Pulpits, ten Days before ſuch Meeting, by Authority of their reſpective Baillies and Kirk Seſſions, and have a Power to adjourn themſelves from time to time, and the Baillies authoriſed to call any Meeting, that may be deemed neceſſary upon incidental Occaſions, and that the Majority of the Truſtees meeting ſhall be a Quorum for the Pariſhes of *Canongate*, *South* and *North Leith* and St. *Cuthbert's*, with this *Proviſo*, That the Heretors of St. *Cuthbert's*, when called together in order to deliberate whether they chuſe to accede to the Scheme, ſhall not only be ſummoned edictally from the Pulpit to a Day certain, but that no leſs than Nine Heretors ſhall be preſent, in order to make a Quorum for treating and contracting for Maintenance of their Poor.

XXIV. That the Truſtees for the ſaid Pariſhes ſhould not only be authoriſed and impowered to tranſact and agree, anent aſſuming their Poor into the ſaid Charity Work-houſe; but alſo to concert and put in Execution proper Meaſures for levying the Sums neceſſary for their Maintenance and Employment, and proportioning the ſame among the Heretors, Liferenters, Tenants and Occupiers of Lands and Tenements, Houſes or Shops in the ſaid Pariſhes, with Power to name Aſſeſſors for that Purpoſe, and chuſe their own Collector, and appoint ſuch Sallaries as they ſhould judge reaſonable, not exceeding 20*l.* a Year, for each of the ſaid Pariſhes, all Incidents for Clerks writing and Books included.

XXV. That whatever Agreement the ſaid Truſtees or Quorum reſpectively ſhould make, in order to the aſſuming their Poor into the ſaid Charity Work-houſe, ſhould, by Act of Parliament, be made binding upon the reſpective Pariſhes in all Time coming.

XXVI. That the Magiſtrates and Baillies of the ſaid Pariſhes ſhould be Truſtees, *ex officio*, thoſe from the Kirk Seſſions annually elected on the ſecond *Monday* of *June*, and thoſe choſen by the Proprietors of Houſes or Lands, to be continued for ſeven Years, from the Date of their Election, on Account of the great Difficulty of bringing ſuch great Numbers together, and interim Vacancies by Death, or being denuded of the Property of their Houſes or Lands, to be ſupplied by the ſurviving Truſtees (named by the Proprietors of Houſes and Lands in the ſaid Pariſh) their Electing, out of their reſpective Bodies, Perſons for ſupplying the ſaid interim Vacancies.

STATE of the Present Funds of the CHARITY WORK-HOUSE of the City of EDINBURGH;

AND

PROPOSALS for applying to the Legislature for an Act of Parliament, for establishing a more equal and certain Fund for the Maintenance and Support of the Begging Poor, and Out-pensioners of the said City.